

Call for Artists

April 2013

**State of Montana**

**Percent-for-Art Program**

**RFQ** [Request for Qualifications]

**MSU-Gaines Hall**

Bozeman, Montana 59717

Quick Facts

**Who:** U.S. Residents

**What:** Request for Artistic Qualifications: Offer a Resume and Portfolio

**When:** Applications open: Wednesday, April 17, 2013

**Where:** Artwork(s) for a Single or Multiple sites: Interior and Exterior sites

**How:** Online application process via **Slideroom.com**

**How Much:** Art Budget: \$76,400.00

**Semi-Finalist Awards for up to (3) artists \$1200.00**

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 5:00 p.m. M.D.T.**

[Project Description and Construction Notes](#)



**MSU – Gaines Hall.** Showing the Main Entrance, concrete plaza, and off to the right, the grassy plaza.

In 2007, a renovation was allocated \$28.5 million to rebuild Gaines to house instructional labs for undergraduate students in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, earth sciences, and physics. The building will also hold the Department of Modern Language and Literatures

(MLL) with its language laboratories, as well as the Center for Student Success, and seven new classrooms, including a new 270-person lecture theatre.

The chemistry building is named for Pascal Clay (P.C.) Gaines who taught chemistry for 43 years. He was department head, 1946-57 and MSU acting president four times. The hall was built in 1961. **From MSU website:**

<http://calendar.msu.montana.edu/locations.php?building=6>

Gaines Hall has met the qualifications to be designated a LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. This is an internationally-recognized building certification program. Dowling Sandholm Architects of Helena, Montana was the firm responsible for the design of MSU-Gaines Hall.

Renovations and additions on the Gaines Hall Building on the MSU-Bozeman campus have been completed. The building will house science and modern language classrooms, labs, a large lecture hall, staff offices, a student center, and conference rooms along with several lounges and outdoor patio spaces. Artwork already graces one of the interior second floor lounges. The most striking feature of the building is the two- story Main Foyer with its clerestory windows. The building is practical, but its interplay of materials both man-made and natural adds texture and interest. The architecture has a decidedly modern feel to it with its *seen but camouflaged* plumbing and wiring, which was necessitated by advancing technologies and needs of the academic programs. Throughout the building, rhythms of these infrastructural elements along with an interplay of concrete block with colored aggregate mixed with cherry woods and bamboo panels, which are separated by aluminum strips, are among some of the dynamic finish material textures and patterns that create a cohesive architectural collage that moves from the interior to the exterior of the building. The woods soften the stone and tile floors. Sage green, dusty blue and gold make up the predominate color palette. Red brick and several tones of metal work are used indoors and out. Laminated wood and molded chairs sit at high top tables. Textured grays and taupe upholstery are on chairs in the lounge areas.

The selection committee is looking for creative and finely-executed artwork to be permanently installed in the landscape, on plazas or at interior sites, which have been identified as suitable for two and three-dimensional artwork. The selection committee and the Montana Arts Council encourages creativity and innovation, but the work should be conceptually accessible to the students, faculty, staff and visitors of the building. The committee seeks artworks of any medium/material and is open to a variety of styles from traditional to experimental. Up to \$76,400.00 will be made available for purchase of the artwork, its installation and signage. Quality artistry, manufacture and installation standards must be met, and during the proposal stage, an engineering report may be required to assure the public safety and longevity of the artwork.

Multiple interior and exterior sites were identified by the selection committee and all are located where the public has easy access to viewing the artwork. The art budget may be used for one artwork or several. Up to three semi-finalists may be selected to view the site and develop a proposal. A stipend award would be offered to these semi-finalists. A collaborative process with these semi-finalists is possible to heighten what the committee

defined as “experiential” quality to locating the artwork sites and a viewer moving from one artwork site to another. The selection committee seeks to purchase a ready-to-install or modify artwork or to commission a new work of public art that will enhance the architecture, and the artwork already installed, and that speaks to the work and education that takes places in the building, and that will complement the other artwork(s) selected. More photographs are available. Topographical maps and soils information are available. Dimensions are available.

**First Stage:** In the first stage of this call, artists will need to provide the selection committee with their resume. They should provide the committee with portfolio images of past work, or work in progress. The artist cover letter may address a personal artistic process and ideas about how create a design concept for the MSU- Gaines Hall, or describe the specifics of artwork in your studio that are ready for installation or modification for one or several sites. In the case of existing artwork, images and full description of its dimensions and materials, and a price should be included. There is no expectation of concept drawings or sharing of concepts for artists applying for a new commission in this RFQ process [Request for Qualifications].

The artist will be asked to offer the committee three references via the Slideroom.com online application process. These should address artistic ability, the ability to work collaboratively with a design and selection committee and offer information about successful projects and/or artwork the artist has completed. Artists will also be able to create a document that offers additional brochures, gallery materials or additional letters of recommendation. Artists can upload a variety of video information about their studio and works in progress, and offer websites and media sites to illustrate more about their working life as an artist.

**Guidelines:** All applications will need to be generated via an online process through the vendor: Slideroom.com. All technical questions about using their service should be directed to their help desk of FAQ's at <http://slideroom.zendesk.com/> or by emailing them at: support@slideroom.com. **To begin the artist application process login to:** <https://mt.slideroom.com>

This is our portal to the application.

**Artists will be able to preview the application by clicking on “MORE” below the project of interest at this portal.** You may need to update or add an additional Internet browser to login. Slideroom.com is constantly updating their services and attempting to make applications and artist images more accessible to more types of computers and mobile devices. For this reason, **always use the Internet links to technical assistance provided in each project description.** Artists may run into outdated and “cached” guideline information by searching the web randomly.

**After creating an account and login** with Slideroom.com artists will be able to look at the **Forms tab.** You will be asked to offer your contact information twice, once for your account and once for the Selection Committee. Information about offering references and how to have your recommenders upload those will be offered as you advance to the **References** tab. Information about size limitations for your text documents and media will be offered

there as well. \* Note: You may combine a variety of text documents such as additional letters of recommendation and brochures into a **single document** then save and upload as a single document or PDF file. As you advance to the **Media** tab of the application, you will be offered the acceptable types of media files and the size limitations. You may return to work on your application as often as you like until you press the SUBMIT button. Just before this last step, you will be asked for a credit card and a payment of \$10.00. This service fee is charged by Slideroom.com to make your application available to all administrators and reviewers. You will receive a confirmation email after submission.

Up to three (3) artists will be selected as Semi-finalists by the selection committee composed of the building's architect, a building faculty representative, a local artist not affiliated with the campus and this committee will be advised by a group of non-voting art and architecture consultants.

**Second Stage:** In the second stage of this call, a small number of semi-finalists will be asked to visit the site to learn more about the building and its landscaping, MSU-Gaines Hall, the people who work and study there. A timeframe will be developed for the artist to offer further information concerning an artwork that is for sale or for modification and sale, or to create a concept rendering, color palettes and samples, and a budget and a final timeline for installation that is inclusive of all project needs and requirements. At this point, the budget should include, but is not restricted to: materials, labor, design fees, insurance covering the artwork in the studio and until installation, along with installation specifications, building permits and associated fees, inspection requirements, engineer's report, shipping, packing and any rental fees, supervisory/site visits, travel expenses such as: mileage, meals, lodging, returning the site to its former condition, and finally incorporating appropriate signage as prescribed by the Montana Arts Council staff. [Note\* These are details to be determined at a later date.]

Second stage proposals should include any necessary specifications for installation including, but not limited to, the needs for electricity, water etc. along with the expectation that the artist will provide a maintenance document to the facility for future care of the artwork. Specification drawings for utilities, soil and streambed specifications and topography with soil grading and drainage reports are available and should be used when designing a proper footing for the sculpture. Considerations should also be made for vandalism mitigation and attractive nuisance factors which might become a liability issue. A one-year warranty of the work will be required.

**Third Stage:** Finalists will be required to provide an artist's statement, high quality images [studio and site installed], and the maintenance document [outlining materials and processes used and how to conserve the artwork] will be required of the artist at the signing of the transfer of ownership documents. Insurance will need to be carried from studio through transport and until ownership is transferred. Payments will be made in two or three installments depending upon complexity of the project. The last payment will be released after installation and receipt of the artist's statement, photos, and maintenance document.

The selection committee and the Montana Arts Council, reserves the right to consider all applications. They also may use all or part of the \$76,400.00 artwork budget and \$3,600 budget for Semi-Finalist awards for the proposals, purchase, signage and display of one or more artworks, or may reject all applications. Final approval will be made by the Montana Arts Council board after reviewing the recommendations of the Percent-for-Art selection committee.

See the **Photo Gallery** for images of some of the proposed artwork sites. For more images or if artists wish to have higher resolution images for their proposals, please contact: Kim Baraby Hurtle, [khurtle@mt.gov](mailto:khurtle@mt.gov)

Timeline:

**Deadline: Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 5:00 p.m. M.D.T.**

Selection Committee Meeting: August 2013

Announcement of Semi-Finalists: September 2013

Design Period: September-2013- December 1, 2013

Finalist Notification: January 2014

Installation: TBD but proposed: Spring & Summer 2014

**How to Apply:** Application process will be an online process using **Slideroom.com** and by using online forms, and uploading your media, cover letter, and references. Concerns and questions about using a computer application process must be called into the Montana Arts Council office by **May 30th, 2013**. It is not our intention to exclude artists by making this an online process but rather to move the applying for projects towards the most equitable process, use less administrative time and dollars, simplify the process for the artist, and offer the reviewers more time with an artist's work in an easy to access platform.

**To begin the artist application process login to:** <https://mt.slideroom.com>

**For technical advice:**

<https://slideroom.zendesk.com/home> frequently asked questions in as easy table format.

Emailing: [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com) will put you in touch with technical support staff. Please use them, they are friendly and knowledgeable.

**For project or program advice:**

Kim Baraby Hurtle

Percent-for- Art Director

Montana Arts Council

(406)444-6639

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[khurtle@mt.gov](mailto:khurtle@mt.gov)

All photographs were taken by Kim Baraby Hurtle